

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY CHILDREN'S NETWORK CBO PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

EAST VALLEY COLLABORATIVE

MISSION/PURPOSE

The East Valley Collaborative is a community partnership, committed to sharing collective knowledge and resources to enhance the quality of life by supporting youth and their families through education and the provision of mental, physical and social services.

MEETING MINUTES JUNE 17, 2003

In Attendance:

Gerry Arce, VBI Community Center	(909) 384-5499
June Chandler, Early Head Start	(909) 890-0661
Stephani Congdon, Bethel Community Outreach	(909) 757-7363
Joy Ellington, Educational Eclipse	(909) 833-1067
Ruth Griffin, First 5 San Bernardino	(909) 386-7706
Robert Hernandez, PTLIC	(909) 889-4399
Steve Kniffen, Somebody Cares Southland steve@somebodycaresonline.org	
Rosemary Merrin, New House, Inc.	(909) 881-0395
Linda Porras, Reproductive Health Services	(909) 383-3076
Veronica Rivera, Catholic Charities	(909) 880-3625
Avante Simmons, CRY-ROP	(909) 793-3115
Melinda Corral, Building A Generation	(909) 793-4160
David Lechuga	(909) 824-5350
Kari Gonzales, ASA Learning Center	(909) 388-1255 X 122
Dana Lee, Catholic Charities	(909) 880-3625
Jose Bustamante, Victory Resource Center	(909) 383-0795
Joe Guzman, Mental Health Systems, Inc.	(909) 890-1523
Daisy Thomas, First Nation	(909) 864-8884
Taryn Lake, Koinonia Charitable Foundation	(909) 855-0344
Susan Martineu, VBI	(909) 384-5499
Dwight Rogers, Neighborhood Housing Services	(909) 383-1657
Edwin Perez, Option House, Inc.	(909) 383-1602
Mary Jaquish, CBO Partnership – Chair	(909) 387-9074
Tammy Williams, Children's Network	(909) 387-5365

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mary welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mary asked everyone to check the sign-in sheet and make sure all the information is correct, since she e-mails frequently funding opportunities.

2. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

No additions or deletions to agenda.

3. Approval of May Minutes

Correction needed page 4 – Steve Kniffen – They distribute five million pounds of food annually, not 40,000 to 50,000 pounds. Minutes were accepted with the correction as noted.

4. Safe Kids Summer Campaign – Sue Taylor

Mary introduced Sue Taylor the Child Abuse Prevention Coordinator from Children's Network. She will tell you about the materials available this summer for kids. If someone has an event this week and you need items, go away and take the items today.

Highlights from Sue Taylor's presentation:

She has been to this group before for the Child Abuse campaign in April, which ended the last day of April. The first day of May started the Safe Summer campaign. There are two focuses in the campaign driven by the Child Death Review team. The focus is on water safety/drowning prevention and leaving kids unattended in cars. Every summer there is too many instances where people are leaving their children in cars by accidents. This year have already had a couple of drowning accidents. She brought materials and they are on the counter for everyone to take. On water safety is a bright green brochure put together by the County Fire Department about staying cool this summer, drowning facts, home hazards, check lists, things in the bathroom, etc. Kids can actually drown in one inch of water, bathtubs, pools, and bodies of water. A Drowning Prevention Network was formed in San Bernardino County last year and they are just celebrating their first anniversary. Some data has been put together. It is amazing how many adults when finding a child in trouble forget to call 911, and that is a key issue.

It was mentioned that just because you give your children swimming lessons, they still need an adult with them and to be supervised. Swimming lessons are not the cure all, but they are good. The Sheriff's Dept. also put together the blue brochure. Samples were brought for everyone, if you need more materials give her call. On water safety, Derrick Dolphin came from the Apple Valley Fire Department.

The Drowning Prevention Network is made up of County agencies, Community agencies, and first responders. Apple Valley came to a meeting and had the Derrick the Dolphin concept. The Drowning Prevention Network adopted Derrick the Dolphin as their mascot. Almost all of the materials have English on one side and Spanish on the back, so you only have to take one sheet of paper for distribution purposes. From National Safe Kids is the water safety checklist give hints on safety issues. Another issue to keep in mind is adults need to learn CPR. The favorite piece that is used at health and safety fairs is the water watcher Tag. Last year was a huge success and probably made around 5,000 of them last Year. If you plan to have booth somewhere, it is really good – (cut the square Out, punch a whole, tie a piece of yarn through it, spread them out on a table and Dump a box of crayons and the kids come running. The child draws a picture on The back and it belongs to them. It is their very own water watcher tag. You Then instruct them that whenever they go in or around water to give the tag to a Responsible adult that knows how to swim. That adult is then designated as a Water watcher. The kids are given permission to nag the adult similar to the seat Belt theory. If you are going to be a water watcher that is all you do, can't go Answer the door, telephone, get a sandwich, etc. If the adult has to leave, you Pass the water watcher tag to another adult or you take the child out of the water. As children are drawing and staying busy, then take the opportunity to explain to the parents and what the purpose of the water watcher tag is. The issue of leaving children in cars, General Motors puts out a brochure. She has available about 10,000 of them, so if you need a bunch let her know. It is about 20 or 30 degrees hotter inside a car then outside. 4 R Kids Sake was developed because Baby Kaitlynn, 6 months old was left last summer in the babysitters' van for 3 hours and died. The mother and grandmother have passed on diligently this information and are responsible for the law, so you do get a fine. Safe Kids Coalition is a National Coalition that focuses on all different safety issues for Children. The Inland Empire Safe Kids Coalition is stationed at the Loma Linda University Hospital. There is a couple of items by them, a checklist for kids. The wheel safe is becoming a issue, most kids do know they must where a Helmet when they bike, what about scooters, skateboards and anything with Wheels? There are adult and child versions. There is a big packet of all the masters with most of the things see you see today. You are welcome to make as many copies as you like and put your logo on anything you want. Don't take off the Safe Kids or Derrick the Dolphin, but you can cut and paste your own logo. If You Take a packet of masters and do make copies, by the end of the campaign, September 1st fill out the cover sheet and send it back to her to let her know. From that information she compiles a report on how far out the information went and identify gaps where to go next year.

Also it will measure how many Pieces of paper go into the publics' hands, whether it is adults or children. The final point is there are only 2 in the office that do the Safe Kids Summer Campaign and they can't get to every event, so what is done is they enlist your help.

So when you sign in on the sign in sheet here, and they know of an activity in your area, they will e-mail you or call you to see if you are going to the event anyway. Then you will be asked if you don't mind to distribute the Safe Kids Summer campaign. Sue does care packages everyday through the mail. It is good for schools, PTA, schools, health and safety fairs, churches, boy scouts, girl scouts and anything where children or parents will be. Sue maintains an event calendar, and right now there are about 85 events that have already been identified and attended, all through September. They work on a grant and must report if reach the whole entire county, so by having a master events calendar will tell where we have been. Every year at the beginning of April or March, Sue and Susan Melanson make a trek out to Needles and take as much items as can, because at the river station they have lots of water safety issues. Some areas are forgotten in the high desert so it is very helpful for you to help get the information out. Really can't measure what is done or how many lives saved, but do think there is an impact on the children's' lives. The drowning deaths have decreased dramatically possibly due to getting the information out to the public. Last year there were 7 and years before that it were usually 14 or 15 a year. Sue can be reached at (909) 387-8966 for any event you need materials. More items have been ordered and will be in this Friday. Will be getting sunglasses, swirley straws, and boxes of 4 crayons to use with the water watcher tags or color books, plastic cups, etc. If don't have a budget to copy, we can do it. Any questions?

Linda Porras of Reproductive Health Services – Public Health Division mentioned how important it is to talk with parents you serve to make sure they understand the principles of First Aid and CPR. They also need to be encouraged to take a class in First Aid and CPR through the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, or the local Police or Fire Departments.

5. Handouts and Round Table Discussion

√Mary Jaquish of the CBO Partnership reported: Mary referred everyone to the flyer on the training by the South Coast Air Quality Management District on June 26th from 8 a.m. to noon at the Ontario Double Tree Hotel. The training is free and is health related. You will also find a flyer on Grief and Loss in Child Welfare. The training is free on June 18th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the National University on Brier Dr. in San Bernardino. Susan Culbertson whom came and spoke about training opportunities for those working with families gave this information to Mary. Last month following the High Desert Partnership for Kids meeting was a presentation on how to clean up databases, systems for tracking grants, etc. Mary referred everyone to the Funding Alert that gave specific information on software companies that provide tracking systems and grant management systems for non-profits.

For a report purposes Mary contacted some of the collaborative members to see how many had mailed out letters of inquiry and proposals from the funding

opportunities she shared with them on a regular basis. The funding information has been regularly put on Children's Network web site www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/childnet. There has been a feeling that the attendance might be going down due to funding information being placed on the web site. Mary talked about how important attendance is at the meetings for collaboration, etc. More of the funding information will be distributed at the meetings, so attendance is more important now than ever. Mary mentioned she plans to spend the next few days researching the Internet for further funding opportunities. Mary mentioned the following chemical companies make grants to provide assistance for the needy: Dow Chemical Company Foundation; Exxon Mobil Chemical; Lubrizol Foundation, etc. Mary mentioned that it is helpful if the companies are located locally, because sometimes the funding opportunities are better for the community. Any questions about grants or things you see in your packets so far? Mary mentioned a helpful hint, when you are doing research and you run across something interesting, to call the program person at the foundation. The Institute for Youth Development has funding available for programs on; job development, education, abstinence, demonstration model programs, etc. The deadline for your letter of intent is August 15th and the web site address is www.youthdevelopment.org.

✓Gerry Arce of VBI Community Center reported: Gerry mentioned he has information on the Federal Grant that deals with mentoring children of inmates are due July 15th. He also has access to eCivis he can share with you copies of successful grants and letters of proposal. Gerry is presently working on a grant dealing with children of prisoners and mentoring programs. This month his program served 100 children. Gerry reminded everyone when you write a proposal letter to include how you plan to measure outcomes and what the value of the service is. They were able to get a second year of funding to work with the faith based and community; to identify needs, gang reduction, substance abuse, literacy, job training, mentoring, etc. He is currently looking for positive role models and trainers for youth.

There was some discussion about grants for minor and capital improvement such as exterior paint. Mary mentioned she has information on a general funder for paint. It was mentioned that Fieldstone www.fieldstone-homes.com/foundation/ would be good to send a one-page letter of inquiry since they cover the local four counties especially the CBOs (Community Based Operations) and the non-profits.

Mary mentioned the big strides the High Desert for Partnership for Kids has made towards partnership and working to make sure they have a better community. She gave an example of going to a town hall meeting where she lives and giving input on ideas of what she would like to see in her community. Mary talked about how important it is to network and take the time. Agencies cannot provide everything, and it is so important to partner without feeling threatened.

Gerry Arce mentioned the Valley Based Initiative is based on partnership with the faith based and community based organizations serving risk that are at high risk, many of whom are children of inmates.

Gerry mentioned that there are 30 to 40 parolees released in San Bernardino on a weekly basis, many of whom have families with a variety of issues. Mary and Gerry are in the process of starting a mentoring network to work with these families in need. Gerry mentioned you can contact him as he has information on training, best practices, and model programs in the State on; substance abuse, domestic violence, mentoring, etc.

√Steve Kniffen of Somebody Cares Southland reported: One project he is working on is the Backpack program for San Bernardino City Schools. San Bernardino City Schools is the 9th largest school district in the state with 56 schools. Thirty of the schools have 90% or more of the students in the free lunch program due poverty level. Steve mentioned his organization is similar to the VBI as they are the anchors for the service providers. They currently have seventeen warehouses and trucks provided free through partnership for distribution of food for the needy. They are currently working with the community to jumpstart the backpack program by placing a backpack in the hands of needy children. In the backpack will be resource and referral information to assist the parents. Steve also works with the faith community, for example the Shepard of Hills Community in North Ridge, where the children in bible school raised enough funds to provide 997 children backpacks in this area. Steve mentioned he partners with Children's Fund as well to assist children in the community. He is working with Star Bucks as a corporate sponsor for \$10,000. At 5 local Star Bucks stores the employees, and community were engaged to partner and assist with the backpack program. A resource directory in English and Spanish as well as school supplies are being placed with in the backpacks. The next backpack meeting is on July 2nd at 2 p.m. at Children's Network and all are encouraged to come and be a partner. Another project he is working on is with a partnership through the Water of Life Church in Fontana by providing a mobile medical van to provide hearing, visions, immunizations, and some pharmacy for the most distressed in the community. This program is to begin in July. He is also partnering with First 5 of San Bernardino to bring food, clothing, and education to the most distressed. Steve mentioned they have a number of locations for distribution of food, specifically Priscilla's Helping Hands in San Bernardino on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. and a location in Rancho Cucamonga on 7th Street on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m.

√June Chandler of the Early Head Start Program reported: They currently have a program working with the prenatal mothers and the 0 to 3. They are serving Rialto, Highland, and Colton. They go into the homes and spend 1-½ hours to help the parents become the child's first teacher and assist with transition into early head start. They have a variety of MOUs to work with the community providing services to prenatal mothers such as maternal health, and classes for pregnant teens. They are moving to E Street across from the Orange Show once

Community Care Licensing comes and licenses their new location. They will be opening a new Child Care Center to cater first to the mothers they are currently serving and any other vacant slots will be offered to the community.

√Robert Hernandez of the PTLC reported: He operates an after school program for junior high and senior high youth. He also operates a computer literacy program for adults. The program is offered to low income and no income individuals and gives them skills to improve their self-esteem.

√Stephani Congdon of Bethel Community Outreach reported: Stephani is involved in a variety of programs such as the Bethel Teen Pregnancy and Prevention program, which was able to get a nutrition program funded through the California Endowment. She has been working with the Calvary Christian School outreach program in the north end of San Bernardino. They are partnering with Cal-State San Bernardino to submit a HUD grant for neighborhood regeneration. In the north end of San Bernardino there is approximately 40% of the population under 17. She is also working with Steve Kniffen to expand the food distribution program and would like to see the mobile health van come to that area as well. They are also trying to get a program together for special needs children, in particular the emotionally damaged preschoolers.

√Taryn Lakey of Koinonia Charitable Foundation reported: They presently work with students in the community. They look forward to offering mentoring programs. They are looking for a larger building space to share.

√Daisy Thomas of the First Nations reported: Daisy attended today's meeting in place of Sandra DeJarnett. She referred everyone to a flyer on a program to help Pre-K through High School child for parents on Thursday, June 26th at 6:30 p.m. at their building at 2210 E. Highland Ave., Suite 116, San Bernardino. They provide psychotherapy, biofeedback, etc. Daisy mentioned, please feel free to call if you have any questions (909) 864-8884.

√Linda Porras of Reproductive Health Services reported: Linda passed out a brochure on family planning services offered throughout the county to males, females and teens. While supplies last they still have free gift cards for phone, gas, or bus passes when they come to the clinic for a check up. Also, if that person refers a friend or relative they can get another free gift such as a water bottle, bag, etc. The services are offered free or very low cost.

√Avante Simmons of CRY-ROP reported: Avante is a community liaison and does outreach to local businesses, city leaders, non-profits, profits, faith-based, etc. for internships of adults and young adults. They work through the WIA program as well. Avante has class schedules available. The program covers the cities along the I-10 from Yucaipa to Bloomington.

√Joe Guzman of the Mental Health Systems, Inc. reported: Through a contract with Behavioral Health they provide counseling services for drug court, substance abuse recovery, and services for children.

√Veronica Rivera of Catholic Charities reported: Veronica is a case manager at Catholic Charities. If funds are available they can assist on an emergency basis to pay utility bills, rent, and mortgages. They have a senior program, give furniture, clothes, food, diapers, and a variety of other programs.

√Kari Gonzales of the ASA Learning Center reported: Through the WIA Youth and Adult Program they provide school for the kindergarten through 6th grade, a charter school for high school, on-site day care program, work with San Geronimo and Pacific High School students who are behind in credits, or are pregnant and/or parenting. The time for new enrollments is July 1st.

√Rosemary Merrin of New House, Inc. reported: They provide housing for men and women. They just got their child day care center licensed for up to 16 children. They collaborate with Cal-State San Bernardino, a child therapist to provide assessment of children for speech, etc. They are located on Arrowhead Ave. close to the Orange Show.

√David Lechuga, Grant Writer reported: They currently have 2 sites, one in Colton and one in Redlands. They have 2 child care centers, work with the youth in the WIA program, and partner with the Colton Unified School District to cover a Charter School that provides classrooms, funds, etc. for high risk middle and senior high students. He has been told they might receive a grant of 8 million dollars and 7 million to build a new facility. Tammy invited him to come to the next Grant Writing Subcommittee meeting on August 6, 2003 at 10 a.m. at the Department of Children's Services – ARD, 825 E. Hospitality Lane, Conference Room B/C, San Bernardino.

√Ruth Griffin of First 5 reported: They are still working on the Strategic Plan with a final product expected the end of September or October. There are still two more meetings for East Valley. She has large quantities of the Kit for New Parents. The kit is to be distributed to new or expecting parents. The kit includes videos, child and parent guides, etc. There is a workshop conducted for distributors of the kits. The kits come in English and Spanish. If you need further information, you can contact Ruth at (909) 386-7706.

√Melinda Corral of Building A Generation reported: They work specifically with the at-risk youth ages 12 to 18. They are currently looking for grant funding. They provide case management for students with a D average, have workshops, teach academic skills, do some assessments, and connect students and teachers for tutoring purposes. They are staffed by volunteers now.

√Joy Ellington of Educational Eclipse reported: The agency is a non-profit to enhance the educational opportunities for students at Kaiser High School. Joy is a liaison between the students, educators, and businesses. She recently took some students on a tour to KTLA TV Station.

√Eduin Perez of Option House, Inc. reported: Option House just celebrated their 26th year to services for families, specifically women and children of domestic violence. They provide shelter, support groups, community education programs, etc. Eduin just finished a yearlong program at Kaiser High School with the youth. Eduin does 10-week workshops and does presentations for churches, head start, community events, etc. He plans to attend this meeting on a regular basis now.

Mary Jaquish mentioned she had some information on a Federal Grant for a grandparent resource center. Mary attended a workshop recently and has information on resource books for therapy such as psychology, trauma to body, troubled youth, etc. The web site is www.questia.com. Mary also mentioned the LA Times Above and Beyond Awards for youth 7 to 13, the deadline is June 21st – the application was shared.

The Children's Network Annual Conference is on September 18th at the Ontario Convention Center and has a new focus on the Redesign of Child Welfare Services. The keynote speaker is 2-time winner of the teacher of the year award, Erin Gruwell.

**6. NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, July 15, 2003
2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**County of Superintendent of Schools
601 North E Street
San Bernardino**

This Collaborative will go dark in August and not in September.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Williams, Recording Secretary
Children's Network

/tgw